(d) The number of persons killed in road accidents in other three metropolitan cities of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras for the year 1992 was 406, 472 and 500 (Estimated) respectively.

Age of Ships in Indian Fleet

427. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Wiil the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have rejected the request of the ship owners for relaxation of age for acquisition of ships;

(b) what are the compelling reasons for such rejection;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the average age of the Indian Merchant ship fleet is fourteen years and while for World fleet is Eighteen years; and

(d) whether Government propose to reconsider the request of the shipowners for age relaxation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANS-POT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To maintain the objectives set out in the 8th Plan document and the import and export policy 1992-97. Moreover, the age norms were revised only in March, 1991.

(c) the average age of Indian and World merchant fleets is 14 years and 17 years, respectively.

(d) Yes Sir, in due course.

Funds Allocated for the development of National Highway in Gujarat

428. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE; Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated and reserved for Maintenance, Development and repair of existing National' Highways dursng 1992-93; 1993-94 district-wise of Gujarat State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Fonds allocated for development, maintenance and repairs of National Highways in Gujarat State are as under:—

	1992-93	1993-94 (Tentative)
	(Rs. in lakhe)	
Original Works	4650.00	4800.00
Maintenance & Repairs	881.37	766.70

The funds are allocated for the State as a whole and not district-wise.

कोचीन शिपयार्ड का बन्द किया जाना

429. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :**
श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर :

क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कोचीन पोत प्रांगण को बंद किया जा रहा है, यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ख) इस पोत प्रांगण में जहाजों के निर्माण के लिए आर्डर देने के संबंध में सरकार ने क्या नीति तैयार की है; और

(ग) वर्तमान में इस पोत प्रांगण में कार्यरत स्थायी तथा अस्थायी कर्मचारियों की संख्या कितनी है ?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाईटलर) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) भारतीय यार्डों को, जिसमें कोचीन शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड भी शामिल है, जहाजों के निर्माण के लिए आर्डर देने की ऐसी कोई नीति नहीं है । तथापि, भारतीय यार्डों में निर्मित जहाजों के मूल्य निर्धारण के लिए जिसमें सरकार द्वारा एवं भारतीय यार्डों को आर्डर देने वाली कम्पनी द्वारा दी जाने वाली सब्सिडी भी शामिल है, एक नीति है ।

(ग) कोचीन शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड में इस समय 2565 स्थाई कर्मचारी हैं । कोई अस्थायी कर्मचारी नहीं है ।

Enquiry on issuance of permits to Private Buses

430. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT he pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi High Court have recently directed to institute an enquiry into the working of the Delhi STA particularly in the mat ter of issuance of permits to private buses running on DTC routes;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been instituted by the Government; and

(c) if so, the level at which the enquiry is being conducted stating the terms of references and the period by which the enquiry is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Negligent driving by Red Line Buses

431. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Mininster of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government have been drawn to the news item 'Red Line drivers have many dead lines to meet' in Hindustan Times dated 30th May, 1933.

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to control the rash and negligent driving by the Red Line buses and to make the Delhi loads more so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The news items appeared in 'The Times of India'. Government have taken note of it.

(b) and (c) As per the permit conditions only drivers having Heavy Motor Vehile driving licence and Public Service Badge are allowed to drive the Red Lin.-Buses. No driver who was dismissed or sacked by the DTC is authorised to drive. Responsibility is cast upon the operators to ensure that permit conditions are obeyed scrupulously.

The Delhi Police have been carrying out prosecutions to deter the drivers from driving the bus in a reckless manner. The Police have also been taking action to discourage unauthorised driving of Red line buses by prosecuting persons indulging in driving these buses without uniform and badges.

Government have been regularly monitoring the progress of enforcement of permit conditions and traffic rules by the Red line Buses with a view to minimise accidents.

Prosecution of Red Line Buses

432. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of red line buses involved in fatal accidents in Delhi since these buses have been given permits;